

Visions & Views

"The limits of my language means the limits of my world." - Ludwig Wittgenstein

Newsletter provided by the Nebraska International Languages Association

Save the date:

Spring 2013

Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (CSCTFL)

NILA Fall Conference
at Doane College

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Convention and Expo

*March 14-16, 2013
Columbus, Ohio*

*October 18 & 19, 2013
Crete, Nebraska*

*November 22-24, 2013
Orlando, Florida*

Page 4

Page 3

Page 5

From the President

I hope this letter finds everyone keeping warm! It has been an unusual winter with all states except Hawaii with snow on the ground. I look forward to being one day closer to spring and a few more minutes of sunlight!

We hope that you will enjoy this edition of "Visions & Views". It is our state professional newsletter that keeps us informed of upcoming conferences, professional development opportunities as well as language-specific happenings. We hope you look forward to the valuable information each of these newsletters provides.

The Central States Conference (CSCTFL) is not far off! We hope to see many of you in Columbus for this great professional development opportunity. The conference will be March 14th to the 16th. There is additional information provided on page 4 of this edition. I always look forward to attending the CSC and returning home with terrific new ideas to energize learning for second semester and beyond.



Reconnecting and networking with colleagues is also a highlight.

Don't forget to save the date of October 18th and 19th for the 2013 NILA Conference which will be held at Doane College in Crete. The theme for the conference is "NILA.0: Powered by Professionalism". The keynote speaker will be Clarissa Adams Fletcher, 2011 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year.

This conference theme targets an evermore important facet of our teaching: professionalism. Without taking opportunities to grow as educators we are removing opportunities for growth from our students during a time of accelerated change. Thank

you to our Nebraska presenters who are taking the time to share ideas with colleagues. We hope you will consider sharing any projects or ideas that have been successful in your classroom. We invite you to submit proposals to our conference chair. Details and contact information can be found on page 3.

NILA is YOUR professional organization. The executive council is listed at the end of the newsletter and on the NILA website hosted by the Nebraska Department of Education. Please feel free to contact any of us with ideas to make our organization stronger and beneficial for you.

Rebecca Gill Renken, NILA President

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

[Award winners and summary of the 2012 NILA Fall Conference](#)

Page 2

[Exciting announcement from Concordia Language Villages](#)

Page 6

[What's new with NAATE, NATG, NATSP](#)

Page 7

RIGHT: Stephanie Iwan Flamme presents at her session entitled, "I ♥ the 90's!".

In this session participants learned useful strategies to use the target language. Stephanie's session was voted as the "Best of Nebraska". She will have an opportunity to present it at the Central States Conference.



2012 AWARD WINNERS

Best of Nebraska

Stephanie Iwan Flamme

Outstanding Language Teacher of the Year

Cris Fishback



2012 Conference Summary

The 2012 Fall Conference was held in Omaha at the University of Nebraska-Omaha on October 13th. The theme was "Unmasking Culture Through Language". Conference sessions highlighted the use of culture in the classroom, technology, and current best practices in order to teach to all students.

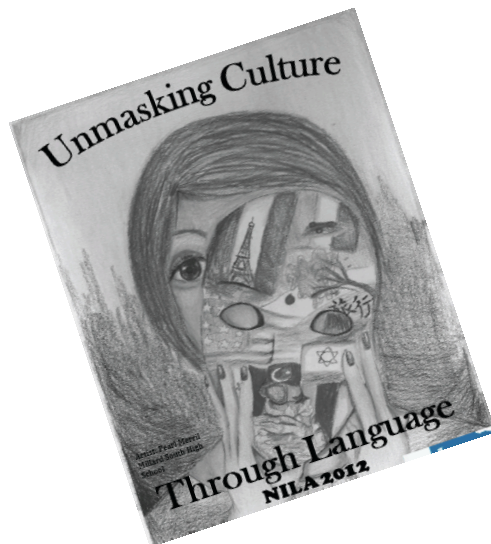
Members of NILA enjoyed dinner Friday evening with fellow educators. The social opportunity was a great time to catch up with old friends and make new ones alike.

Design Contest Recognizes Creativity

LEFT: The winning entry for the 2012 Conference. The artist, Pearl Merrill, is a student at Millard South High School.

Enter your students' work in NILA's Conference Cover Design Contest! This competition seeks to promote an awareness of the importance of language study and to increase the visibility of NILA as an organization. We wish to acknowledge those students who demonstrate a good understanding of the theme through excellence in design by creating a work that is both functional and attractive. All submissions should have been received by February 1, 2013.

See page 9 for an application.

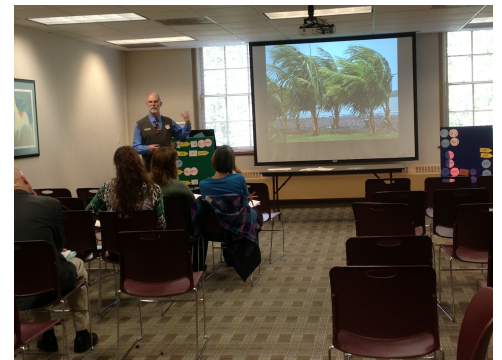


Mini-Grants are Available for YOU!

Do you have a project in mind but need a little cash? Mini-Grants are designed to fund classroom projects identified by teachers as activities they would like to perform to benefit their students, school, or community. Five Mini-Grants of \$100 are available. All submissions should have been received by February 1, 2013.

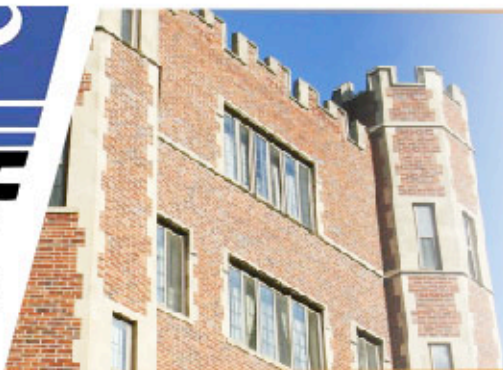
See page 10 for an application.

BELOW: James Nailon presenting on how we can get students' attention using music, PowerPoint, manipulatives, and actions.



2013 Conference Preview

Our next conference, "NILA.0: Powered by Professionalism", will be at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. Please join us October 18th and 19th for a host of quality sessions and inspired collegiality.



DOANE
COLLEGE

Power up your professionalism!

This year's conference is all about you. It is about making your professional life easier. We want you to come enjoy the offerings of sessions, vendors, and professional guidance and leave inspired to make every school day between conferences better than the last. The information below is an excerpt of a brochure that will soon be distributed to Nebraska school districts.

The Nebraska International Languages Association is your professional organization dedicated to the support and promotion of language teaching and teaching English as a second language for the state of Nebraska.

At our conferences we **welcome** any person who is interested in or actively engaged in the teaching of a second language at any level of education. Attending the Fall Conference will provide you a year-long membership so you may take advantage of all NILA has to offer you. Membership is also open to administrators, school

counselors, retired teachers, student teachers, interns, and parents.

NILA is your **support system**! With us you can connect with colleagues from across the state. You will get innovative ideas for Monday morning, the most current best professional practices and more for every day of the year! We have your network to resources, creative ideas, and meaningful collaboration with teachers just like you.

There are numerous **professional development** opportunities offered through our Fall Conference as well as through the Nebraska chapters of the Associations of Teachers of French, German, Spanish and Portuguese.

Recognition of your hard work is as vital as continuing education for all educators. NILA gives out mini-grants to teachers who need support to put ideas into action. We also pay tribute to educators who are outstanding in their

field for teaching and professionalism by honoring them at our yearly Fall Conference.

Keynote Speaker: Clarissa Adams Fletcher



Our Keynote Speaker for the upcoming NILA conference will be Clarissa Adams Fletcher. She is the 2011 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year and a National Board Certified Teacher.

Mrs. Adams Fletcher is a Spanish teacher and an Instructional Leader at Dunwoody

High School in Georgia. She is an advocate for language education and we are excited to host her at our conference!





MultiTasks, MultiSkills, MultiConnections

March 14 - 16, 2013 - Columbus, OH - Hilton Columbus Downtown

Keynote Speaker:

Therese Sullivan Caccavale connects with language teachers! She speaks our language and understands our problems because she herself is a dedicated teacher. She has focused her teaching career on Immersion Education, emphasizing the exclusive use of the target language in the classroom. Terry is a doctoral student at Boston University with a specialization in Second Language Literacy. In addition to being the Keynote Speaker at CSCTFL 2013, she will present a workshop titled "Literacy: The Key to Second Language Development."



From Central States:

The annual Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages includes approximately 200 workshops and sessions presented by world language teachers at all levels of instruction. It is governed by a Board of Directors which is elected by the membership of the CSCTFL Advisory Council as outlined in its by-laws.

The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages serves the seventeen states of: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

You can be part of this process through regular attendance at the annual conference.

In addition, one can join the Advisory Council, and receive free conference registration along with other privileges and opportunities for professional involvement and development.

Conference Highlights:

- Explore ways to help students succeed in a global society
- Learn about colleagues' languages
- Discuss, debate, and learn about methodologies, cultures, and communities
- Share solutions to problems
- Investigate modes of assessment
- Explore uses of technology
- Learn techniques to motivate and stretch language proficiency
- Generate excitement about language learning
- Energize language educator

Visit CSCTFL's Website for the
information you have read here
and much more:
www.csctfl.org

2013 ACTFL Conventions and World Languages Expo

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo, where learning comes alive, features over 600 educational sessions covering a wide spectrum of the language profession addressing the theme New Spaces, New Realities: Learning Any Time, Any Place. More than 250 exhibiting companies will be showcasing the latest products and services for you and your students. The ACTFL Convention is an international event bringing together over 6,000 language educators from all languages, levels and assignments within the profession.



Visit ACTFL's website for the information you have read here and much more:

www.actfl.org

ACTFL Delegate Assembly Report



Pat Branson volunteered to attend the ACTFL Delegate Assembly on behalf of NILA. The Assembly of Delegates met November 15, 2012 for a day-long workshop. Her personal comments about the meeting conveyed that she was impressed by the wonderful organization and amount of fascinating information that was disseminated in such an amount of time.

Delegates were seated at tables organized by region in order to collaborate more effectively. For the discussion of advocacy, participants discussed what our essential message should be and how we will spread the word and raise awareness. Topics of discussion included:

- National initiatives impacting language education
- Connecting languages to the common core state standards
- Connecting languages with STEM education
- Connecting with languages for special/specific purposes
- Connecting languages with college and career readiness
- Advocacy

If you are interested in learning more about any of these topics discussed at the Delegate Assembly or becoming a participant in the advocacy for world languages, please contact any NILA Board Member.

Some Facts From JNCL/NCLIS:

- There are 1.2 million auto workers but a half million language people
- There are 200,000 full-time language professionals
- Languages are responsible for \$25 billion in the US economy and over 6000 small businesses need foreign languages

Other ACTFL News:

- 21st century skills map will be on the ACTFL website
- Performance Descriptors for Language Learners will be on the ACTFL website
- How Lingua Folio aligns with the indicators will also be online
- There is now a Memorandum of cooperation with the European Centre for Modern Languages
- The public relations push for 2013 will be to go beyond the language community—there will be an online platform for this
- ACTFL 2013 will be November 22-24 in Orlando: "New Spaces, New Realities"; proposals are due by January 9.



Concordia Language Villages has received unprecedented levels of funding for scholarships for our 2013 summer youth programs!

Concordia Language Villages is pleased to announce that scholarships are available for our 2013 summer youth (ages 7 – 18) immersion programs. Some scholarships may include travel stipends. The Language Villages has been a leader in immersion language and culture education for over 50 years and offers 1, 2 and 4 week residential immersion summer camps.

For additional information please visit: www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org/scholarships

★Arabic
★Chinese
★Danish
★Swedish
★French

★German
★Spanish
★Italian
★Korean
★Japanese

★Finnish
★Norwegian
★Russian
★English
★Portuguese





NAATF

The Nebraska chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French sponsors initiatives that support teachers in the classroom such as National French Week where French is taken out of the classroom and promoted in the community. There are also student-centered activities created that will enrich and reinforce French language learning. French Convention and Auberge de Jeunesse, an immersion overnight are offered in the spring on alternating years.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the chapter or have any questions, please contact Anne Johnson, aejohnson@mpsomaha.org.



NATG

New AATG officers as of January 15 are:

Mike Bendorf, President
Ginger Starks-Yoble, President Elect
Yvonne Engesser, secretary-treasurer (filling out Ginger's term until fall)
Pat Branson, Past President

The spring workshop for AATG will be held Saturday, April 13 in the morning, followed by the AATG Test

Awards Tea to honor outstanding students.

The State German Students' Convention will be Saturday, April 27 at Bellevue West. The theme is "Zusammen sind wir stark". Registration forms have been emailed and registration is due to Pat Branson by March 27.

Congratulations to Brenda Stewart who was honored with the AATG/Goethe Institute Certificate of Merit at the AATG Convention in November. Brenda retired from Millard North this past year.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the chapter or have any questions, please contact Mike Bendorf, mbendorf@westside66.org.



NATSP

The Nebraska Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese is an organization that networks and encourages statewide educators of Spanish and Portuguese. NATSP has two immersions per year. One in the spring about February or March and one in the fall, the Friday before the NILA conference. The immersions are created by educators in the state and involve cultural pieces, best practice strategies and take-home resources.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the chapter or have questions, please contact Mandy Freitag, afreitag@westside66.org.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the immersions or have questions, please contact Shanna Hellerich, shellerich@esu10.org.

NILA Board Members

President	Rebecca Gill Renken	Palmyra HS 425 F Street	Palmyra, NE 68418	rgillrenken@gmail.com	402-780-5327
Past President	Melanie Bloom	UNO 6001 Dodge Street	Omaha, NE 68182	melaniebloom@mail.unomaha.edu	402-554-4989
President Elect	Sarah Percival	Westside HS 8701 Pacific Street	Omaha, NE 68114	spercival@westside66.org	402-343-2685
Vice President	Rita Blanco	Lincoln Southwest HS 7001 S. 14th Street	Lincoln, NE 68512	rblanco@lps.org	402-436-1306
Secretary	Mel Hernandez	Lincoln Southwest HS 7001 S. 14th Street	Lincoln, NE 68512	melhernan@lps.org	402-436-1306
Treasurer	Julie Burenheide	Pope John Central Catholic 303 Remington Street Box 179	Elgin, NE 68636	jburenheide@esu8.org	402-843-5325
Program Chair 2013 Fall Conference	Rita Blanco	Lincoln Southwest HS 7001 S. 14th Street	Lincoln, NE 68512	rblanco@lps.org	402-436-1306
Exhibit Chair 2013 Fall Conference	Wendy Brennan	Millard North HS 2828 S. 139th Plaza	Omaha, NE 68144	wmbrennan@mpsomaha.org	402-715-1290
Site Chair					

We are busy people.

We want to extend a big *“thank you”* to all of our volunteers who have helped us in organizing and hosting our excellent conferences. We feel that our volunteering isn’t anything like work because it is enjoyable and fun!

There are several committees and positions that will suit anyone’s desired level of involvement. If you are interested in volunteering with the Nebraska International Languages Association contact Sarah Percival.



Sarah Percival
Westside High School
8701 Pacific Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68118
402-343-2685
mmepercival@gmail.com

NILA

Design Contest

Enter your students' work in NILA's Conference Cover Design Contest! This competition seeks to promote an awareness of the importance of language study and to increase the visibility of NILA as an organization. We wish to acknowledge those students who demonstrate a good understanding of the theme through excellence in design by creating a work that is both functional and attractive.

Eligibility: Any Nebraska World Language student in Grades K-12

Theme: "NILA.0: Powered by Professionalism"

How to enter: Send a camera-ready color *or* black & white 8 ½ x 11 design* to:
Sarah Percival, Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68114

Prizes: A \$50 PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNING ENTRY! The artwork will be published as the Conference Cover for the NILA Fall Conference 2013 Program Booklet and will be showcased at the Nebraska Department of Education-WORLD LANGUAGE- Web Site. In addition, Honorable Mention will be awarded to competitive entries.

Sponsors: Awards are made possible through a grant from the NEBRASKA INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES ASSOCIATION & THE CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Deadline: All submissions must be received by February 1, 2013.

Questions? Please contact Sarah Percival at mmepercival@gmail.com

** The design is not guaranteed to be returned*

Do you have a project in mind but need a little cash?

Apply for a NILA MINI-GRANT today!

Take advantage of this opportunity for members of NILA. Up to 5 (five) Mini-Grants will be awarded to innovative projects from across Nebraska.

ELIGIBILITY: K-12 WORLD LANGUAGE Teachers

GUIDELINES: Mini-Grants are designed to fund classroom projects identified by teachers as activities they would like to perform to benefit their students, school, or community. Projects must contain clear goals that are congruent with best practices in language teaching. This grant should be used to provide for single events or classroom projects/strategies and should not be used to supplement projects already underway or already funded from other sources. The ability to replicate the project is also desired but not essential. Check the NILA website for examples of projects funded by mini-grants in the past.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Applications will be considered based on:

- *educational benefit to students
- *integration of proposed project with learning goals
- *number of people impacted

FUNDING: Mini-Grants of up to \$100 are available for projects on a one-time-only basis. Because funding is limited projects requesting small amounts will be given consideration. Applicants should avoid asking for funds that could be found through other sources or that require a continuing commitment of funds beyond the original proposal.

DEADLINE: February 1, 2013

AWARDS: If approved, applicants should receive funds within 30 days. Recipients are asked to fill out a reflection sheet upon completion of their project. Projects will be showcased on the NDE World Language Education Website and announced to the membership at the Fall NILA Conference.

QUESTIONS? Contact Sarah Percival at mmepercival@gmail.com.

The NILA mini-grant Application Form can be downloaded from the Nebraska Department of Education Foreign Languages website (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/forlg/>). Submit your application form to Sarah Percival: mmepercival@gmail.com or to Sarah Percival at Westside High School, 8701 Pacific Street Omaha, NE 68114

NILA *Mini-Grant* APPLICATION FORM

Name of Applicant(s): _____

Position: _____ Language(s) Taught _____

School: _____ School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

School Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of Principal: _____ School Phone: _____

Dept. Chair or Supervisor: _____

Home Address _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Best Place / Time to contact me: Work:_____ AM__ PM__ Home:_____ AM__ PM__

Number of Yrs. at this school: ____ Number of Yrs. In Education. ____ Degree: BA ____ MA ____ PhD ____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level: _____ Language: _____ Number of Participants: _____

Project Design (Explain the project thoroughly including the objectives, procedures, participant behaviors, outcomes and benefits to the learner.) Attach additional pages if desired.

[illegible]

Budget: _____
